

Jefferson County Board of County Commission
Regular Session
August 17th, 2023

The Board met this date in regular session.

Present were Chairman Chris Tuten; Commissioner Gene Hall; Commissioner Austin Hosford; Commissioner JT Surles; Commissioner Stephen Walker; County Manager Shannon Metty; County Attorneys Heather Encinosa and Evan Rosenthal

Chairman Tuten called the meeting to order. Commissioner Walker led the Invocation and Pledge.

- Agenda Item #2: Public Announcements, Presentations and Awards
 - None
- Agenda Item #3: Citizens Request and Input on Non-Agenda Items
 - Mrs. Katie Turner, Public Defenders Office, asked the Board to assist with building maintenance as their office air conditioner has quit working and the secondary unit, which was installed in 1991, is having troubles.
- Agenda Item #4: Consent Agenda
 - A motion was made by Commissioner Walker, seconded by Commissioner Hall, and unanimously carried, for the Board to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of: the vouchers to be paid.
- Agenda Item #5-A: Joint Legislative Audit Committee Letter
 - Mr. Chris Moran, auditor, reviewed the audit report handout. He stated that in his opinion all things are fairly presented and was available for any questions or concerns.
 - Clerk Reams reviewed the Audit Committee Letter. He added that historically this task had been his to handle and he did this without assistance as he didn't want to be derelict in his duties.
 - Chairman Tuten asked County Manager Metty if she had the opportunity to review. He also asked Clerk Reams if the items noted in the report had been corrected.
 - County Manager Metty stated she had not.
 - Clerk Reams stated that one finding had been corrected but was unsure of the other.
 - Commissioner Walker stated he was under the impression that prior discussion had instructed the Clerk to work with the County Manager's Office. He motioned that moving forward anything financial was to go through the County Manager before completion. Commissioner Hall seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
 - County Manager Metty explained that the hiring of the Budget Officer was to assist with finances.
 - Clerk Reams argued that was not necessary as it was his constitutional duty.
- Agenda Item #5-B: Amendment to CSA #1 Road Bond Project
 - County Attorney Encinosa reviewed the attached amendment.
 - Commissioner Hosford motioned to approve the amendment as presented. Commissioner Walker seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- Agenda Item #5-C: ITB 2023-14 Award-Waukeena Highway BSCOP Bridge
 - County Manager Metty reviewed the attached BSCOP Award.
 - Commissioner Walker motioned to approve the award as presented. Commissioner Surles seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

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- Agenda Item #5-D: Solid Waste ILA with City of Monticello
 - County Attorney Rosenthal reviewed the attached interlocal agreement.
 - Commissioner Surles motioned to approve the ILA as presented with Option #1. Commissioner Walker seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- Agenda Item #5-E: TDC Appointment Resolution
 - County Manager Metty reviewed the attached resolution.
 - Commissioner Surles motioned to approved the Resolution as presented. Commissioner Hosford seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- Agenda Item #5-F: Surplus Property Discussion - Pop's Sanitation & Mosquito Control
 - County Manager Metty opened the discussion. She suggested using the appraisal as the base bid.
 - Commissioner Surles agreed but stated he felt that Pop's Sanitation should have first right of refusal or be granted an agreement on the property without putting it to bid as they were the current tenants and wished to remain.
 - Commissioner Walker argued that there should not be a first right of refusal and if a tenant wished to bid on the property, they were welcome to submit a bid.
 - County Attorney Encinosa informed the Board that legally they could not offer a first right of refusal. She further explained that Economic Development had the option to offer incentives to business to try to bring them to the County but the offers could not be retro-actively done. She noted that Economic Development could issue a new agreement if Pop's Sanitation were to expand their operations and create new jobs.
 - Mr. Tommy Hardee, Pop's Sanitation owner, stated that other counties were willing to give him property to bring his business to them so he didn't understand why Jefferson County wouldn't want to offer the same. He explained the benefits he felt his business offered the County.
 - Commissioner Hall asked if Pop's Sanitation would remain a business in Jefferson County should the property be surplusd.
 - Mr. Hardee stated that if he obtained the property then his business would remain in operation in the County but if he didn't obtain the property the business would not.
 - Commissioner Hosford asked if there has been any interest in the property being surplusd.
 - County Manager Metty explained that there had been numerous businesses interested.
 - Commissioner Walker motioned to approve the surplus of both properties. Commissioner Hosford seconded the motion. Motion passed with a vote of 3-2. (Commissioners Surles and Tuten opposed)
- Agenda Item #5-G: Courthouse Traffic Discussion
 - Commissioner Hall opened the discussion and stated he has asked the Community Traffic Safety Team to issue a letter of support for traffic calming devices to be installed in and around the Courthouse.
 - Clerk Reams added that the next meeting was scheduled for the end of September so the letter would be delayed a bit.

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- Agenda Item #6: Clerk of Court
 - Clerk Reams read email correspondence from The Standard Insurance who stated all dental and life insurance policies had been reinstated.
 - Jessica Scott, The Standard Insurance representative was on Zoom and stated she was working to correct the account and reassess the amount owed. She explained that her office was the one at fault for these issues.
 - County Manager Metty asked that the County HR Director Renee Long be included in any correspondence and decisions moving forward.
- Agenda Item #7: County Engineers
 - County Engineer Jack Husband stated that the Casa Bianca Road Project was going to need to be re-stripped as the work completed was not acceptable. He also gave an update on the Old Lloyd Road curve issue. He explained that the guardrail was still not the best option.
 - Clerk Reams asked which company did the work on Casa Bianca Road.
 - Mr. Husband stated that the work was completed by Emerald Coast.
- Agenda Item #8: County Attorney
 - County Attorney Encinosa informed the Board that the Special Exception Hearing would be held on September 20th and October 5th. She explained the draft of the Code is under review and would come to the Board at a later date. She also stated that the Solar Ordinance is being finalized and is being scheduled to go before the Planning Commission at the next meeting.
- Agenda Item #9: County Manager
 - County Manager Metty clarified that her office is the one that found and had been working with the insurance discrepancies. She asked the Board to reiterate the inclusion of her office on any decisions. She also stated that she and Clerk Reams had been working on the A Building documents and felt that it should be able to put to bid soon.
- Agenda Item #10: County Commissioners
 - Commissioner Walker brought to light the continued issues with the Meeting Minutes either not being presented or being presented incorrectly. He explained that he had found multiple discrepancies as well as had citizens reach out with concerns for them being inconsistent. He also noted his concern for the Clerk's Office not always being present during the entire meeting and as such possibly causing some of the inconsistencies.
 - Commissioner Surles explained that there was a resident on Waukeena Highway who was having a driveway washout that was creating rock and dirt to be washed into the roadway. He asked if the County Engineer if there was anyway to assist as it was creating a safety concern. He also asked that the mowing on the right of ways not be neglected.
 - County Attorney Encinosa stated as a public safety concern the County could assist.
 - County Manager Metty stated that she would work the Road Department to revise a plan for the mowing.
 - Commissioners Hall and Hosford had nothing to add.

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On motion by Commissioner Walker, seconded by Commissioner Surles, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Renee' Long

Renee' Long-Jefferson County Deputy County Manager

Board of County Commissioners
Jefferson County, Florida

ATTEST:

Chairman

Clerk of Court